



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1104.0 - Microdata News, Aug 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 26/08/2011

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### In this issue

This issue of Microdata News contains quite a long list of CURFs that have been recently released or are soon to be released. Among that list is the Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing 2009-10 CURF. This one always attracts a lots of interest from researchers and the latest release is no different - with lots of calls coming into us about its content and release date. The HES/SIH will be released during September and, as with previous releases, will be available in both Basic and Expanded formats. If you would like to receive an email alert when it, or any other ABS product, is released you can arrange this very simply using the free ABS Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed.

More than a few researchers use CURFs in more than one organisation - typically this will might be an academic undertaking a research consultancy for another organisation. ABS is very supportive of this use of CURFs, but we do need to know when this is happening to ensure that all the legal requirements around CURF access are met by the user and by the organisations they are working with. See the article about using CURFs in multiple organisations for more information.

For RADL users, we have also included a short article in this issue about saving and managing datasets in RADL. Not everyone is aware that you can save datasets in RADL and some folks have suggested we add this functionality. We have thought it a good idea too - so much so that the functionality was built into RADL very early in its life. The article focusses on management of your saved datasets - including how to delete them when you no longer need them - but you will also find advice about how to initially save a dataset. Give us a call on 02 6252 7714 if you need more help with this.

Finally, all ABS CURF users receive an Alert by email when each issue of Microdata News is released. Others are very welcome to subscribe to this free Newsletter by following the prompts on the Subscribe to Microdata News page.

Kim Farley-Larmour  
Director, Microdata Access Strategies

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### New and upcoming CURF releases

To receive information about a CURF on the day of its release, please subscribe to the free ABS Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access to CURFs use the MiCRO online CURF application system web page.

**Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08 (Reissue)** (cat. no. 6541.0.30.001)

**Released: 27 May 2011**

This reissued file contains unit record data from the Survey of Income and Housing. It is available as a Basic CURF on CD-ROM, and as an Expanded CURF in the RADL and the ABS on-site Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

This release includes three corrections to the CURF files. An error with the weights has been corrected for a small number of records on the Basic CURF. Problems with two data items on the Person level CURF files (both Basic and Expanded) have also been corrected ('Parent or guardian flag' and 'Person number within income unit').

The publication, Technical Manual: Income and Housing, Australia, Expanded CURF 2007-08 (Reissue) (cat. no. 6541.0.30.001), explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use and should be used in conjunction with this CURF. An Excel spreadsheet listing all the data items available on the Expanded CURF accompanies the Technical Manual.

**Microdata: Patient Experiences in Australia, Expanded CURF, Australia, July 2009 to Dec 2009** (cat. no. 4840.0)

**Released: 22 June 2011**

This CURF provides national data on access and barriers to a range of health care services including general practitioners, medical specialists and other health professionals, imaging and pathology, after hours care and hospital/emergency departments. Data is also presented on patient experiences of care and information provision. It includes data from people that did not access health services as well as from those who did and enables analysis of health service information in relation to particular population groups.

**Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Aug 2010** (cat. no. 6202.0.30.001)

**Expected release: 26 August 2011**

This CURF provides information from both the monthly Labour Force Survey and the related Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership supplementary survey.

Detailed labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15 years and over are included. In addition, for employees, data is provided on earnings, leave entitlements, superannuation, entitlement to other benefits and trade union membership.

The Expanded CURF provides information from both the monthly Labour Force Survey and the related Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership supplementary survey in more detail.

**Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010** (cat. no. 6250.0.20.002)

**Expected release: 20 September 2011**

This CURF provides statistics about migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.

A technical manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is available through **Technical Manual: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010** (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001).

**Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10** (cat. no. 6540.0)

**Expected release: September 2011**

Is a file containing unit record data from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). Four individual microdata files are available: the Basic files for HES and SIH are distributed on CD-ROM or can be accessed via the RADL.

This is the third edition of the file. Most files are identical to those on the second edition of the CURF, but experimental estimates of imputed rent have been added to the household level files. The new items relate to imputations of the value of the flow of household consumption services conferred by home ownership or subsidised housing, and are derived from the survey data in conjunction with other data.

**Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2010** (cat. no. 6306.0.55.001)

**Expected release: September-October 2011**

The Employee Earnings and Hours (EEH) survey produces estimates of the composition and distribution of employee earnings, the hours they are paid for and the methods used to set their pay (i.e. award only, collective agreement, or individual arrangement). EEH is the only ABS source of information on methods of setting pay.

Some of the key data items on the EEH CURF include:

- Weekly earnings - Ordinary time, Overtime, Amounts salary sacrificed, and Total earnings (available as continuous variables);
- Hours paid for - Ordinary time, Overtime, and Total hours paid for (available as continuous variables);
- Methods of setting pay;
- Employee characteristics - e.g. Sex, Full-time/Part-time status, Managerial status, Occupation (available at the 1, 2 and 3 digit ANZSCO level), Type of employee (Permanent, Fixed-term, Casual);
- Business characteristics - Industry (1 digit ANZSIC level), and Employer unit size (under 20 employees, or 20 or more employees); and
- Jurisdictional information - Jurisdictional coverage of employees and Jurisdiction of registered agreement.

The **Technical Manual: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2010** (cat. no. 6306.0.55.002) explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use and should be used in conjunction with the CURF. An Excel spreadsheet listing all the data items available on the Expanded CURF accompanies the Technical Manual.

For further future CURF releases please see our List of Expected and Available CURFs web page.

For information on applying for access to ABS CURFs, see the [Microdata Entry Page](#) on the ABS website.

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### Please delete your old saved datasets in RADL

While it is great to be able to save and re-use datasets you have created in RADL in your own RADL workspace, we find that many users have some very old datasets in their personal workspace. If you have saved datasets you no longer need, you can help us keep RADL running smoothly by deleting them.

First, **view** your saved datasets:

1. Run a job in the RADL with the language set to "File Management",
2. Select any CURF and enter "dir" within the code input screen. This will produce a list of your saved datasets.

To **delete** a saved dataset;

1. Run a job in the RADL with the language set to "File Management",
2. Select any CURF and enter "del" followed by the dataset name within the code input screen, e.g. del saved.dta

For more information on saving and managing your personal holdings in RADL see page 17 of the RADL user guide.

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### Bob and Jane discuss Survey TableBuilder at the water cooler

Setting the scene: Two colleagues meet up at the water cooler and start chatting...

Bob - Hi Jane. I heard that the ABS was releasing a Survey TableBuilder soon. Do you know anything about it?

Jane - Yes I do. Survey TableBuilder is very similar to Census TableBuilder in many ways. Survey TableBuilder is an online tool for creating your own tables and graphs using ABS survey data.

Bob - How do you use it?

Jane - You use the 'drag and drop' functionality to construct tables to your own specifications. You can add totals, percentages and display relative standard errors. You can graph the output or save your table within Survey TableBuilder if you want to continue working on it later.

Bob - That sounds great Jane! Does it matter that I don't have any expertise in any statistical languages like SAS?

Jane - No, you don't need to have any expertise in statistical languages to use Survey TableBuilder.

Bob - What if I want to add the tables I've created to my own spreadsheets?

Jane - You can download tables in a number of formats including Excel and .CSV. The graphical output comes in very handy for presentations and submissions.

Bob - So how is Survey TableBuilder different to CURFs?

Jane - Survey TableBuilder has less information than the CURFs and only tabular output is available. The ABS tell me that there will be categorical variables in the first release, with continuous variables to follow later.

Bob - Will Survey TableBuilder replace the need for CURFs?

Jane - No, not at all. I see Survey TableBuilder complementing the existing suite of ABS' microdata services.

Bob - This all sounds great Jane, but how much does access cost?

Jane - Survey TableBuilder will be available on an organisational basis. The cost is \$850.00 for access to each dataset.

Bob - When will Survey TableBuilder be available Jane?

Jane - The ABS expects that it will be available at some stage later this year Bob.

Feeling satisfied and excited by all this new information, Bob goes back to his computer and reviews

information from the Microdata Entry Page.

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### Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

Users may belong to multiple organisations. This will occur when you are working for multiple organisations, or are contracted to work elsewhere on a temporary basis.

Please note, that when you leave an organisation, you need to record this in MiCRO before applying to join your new organisation.

**Please remember** - when you belong to multiple organisations you need to check that your default '**Current Organisation**' is set to the appropriate one. If you wish to apply for microdata through a secondary organisation, you will need to change it to your default by selecting '**Set as your Current Organisation**' before you apply.

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Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

It includes information about new releases of microdata including; Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), TableBuilder datasets and other access methods, as well as tips for users and news about developments in the ABS microdata world.

Previously known as CURF Microdata News.

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